

STUDY of ANCIENT LIFEWAYS and TECHNOLOGIES

#### S.A.L.T. MISSION STATEMENT

S.A.L.T.'s primary goal is to understand, practice and share all life skills and arts of the ancient world. This is accomplished by regular Skills Meetings and informing the public through various Events.



[www.saltskills.com](http://www.saltskills.com)

[saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)

Charlie Tadano, President

Ron Moses, Vice President

Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary

Tamara Tadano, Treasurer

Laura Robins, Newsletter Editor / Webmaster

Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 16, Issue 6

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

## S.A.L.T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>**

10 am – 2 pm

at the San Tan Historical Society Museum

20425 S. Old Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ

**S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS / DRUMMING CIRCLE 9am**

### S.A.L.T. SKILL #4 TOOLS

Make a Digging Stick and Shell Scraper  
with Charlie Tadano

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

**WORLD ATLATL DAY CANCELED on June 7<sup>th</sup> this year...**

S.A.L.T. CAMPOUT / PARADE July 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

in Heber/Overgaard. For info email Mari Townsend

[grasshopper0714@yahoo.com](mailto:grasshopper0714@yahoo.com)

Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> SKILLS MEETING

at the San Tan Museum, 20425 S. Old Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ

S.A.L.T. SKILL # 4 TOOLS – Bone needles & Bone Awls with Charlie

Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> SKILLS MEETING

at Tom Wax's House, Tucson, AZ

S.A.L.T. SKILL # 3 FRICTION FIRE – Make a Bow Drill Kit, Knots & Cordage

**S.A.L.T. Quarterly Board Meeting after Skills Class**

Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> SKILLS MEETING

at the San Tan Museum, 20425 S. Old Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ

S.A.L.T. SKILL # TBD

**REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR S.A.L.T. SHIRTS  
TO ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS!**

“SENDING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE”



## S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM



**WILL BE CLOSED FROM MAY 20<sup>th</sup>  
to late SEPTEMBER for renovations.**

S.A.L.T. will be back at SVM on October 18<sup>th</sup> for International Archaeology Day and to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Thank you to S.A.L.T. Members Mari & Dalen Townsend with the San Tan Chapter of the Arizona Archaeology Society for inviting S.A.L.T. to meet at the San Tan Historical Society Museum in Queen Creek this summer!

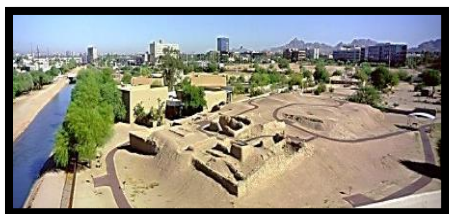
<https://azarchsoc.org/SanTan>

**“Unless there is CONTEXT,  
it's all arts and crafts.” Steve Watts**

## BACK OPEN IN OCTOBER! S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM



Hohokam culture, just east of downtown Phoenix, next to Sky Harbor International Airport. It's a National Historic Landmark and Phoenix Point of Pride accessible by the Sky Train and the Light Rail. Now part of the City of Phoenix Arts & Culture Department, it's the largest preserved archaeological site in Phoenix.



4619 E. Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 85034 (602) 495-0901

in English it is "Central Platform Mound."

**Pronounced:  
SUE DOVE VE AWKEY**

S'EDAV VA'AKI Museum (Pueblo Grande Museum) is an archaeological site once inhabited by the





**S.A.L.T.**  
STUDY of ANCIENT LIFEWAYS and TECHNOLOGIES

[www.saltmuseums.com](http://www.saltmuseums.com)

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ANCIENT SKILLS?**  
Everyone is welcome to join our S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETINGS at S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm on the third Saturday of every month for free instruction in ancient skills!
























\* You are here today because YOUR ancestors knew these things.\*

✦ Museum Store Opening Hours ✦



Tuesday - Saturday  
9:00AM - 4:00PM

Sunday & Monday  
Closed

\*store hours are subject to change\*

store@svmfoundation.org

602-534-2430



**S.A.L.T. CAMPOUT / PARADE July 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>**  
in Heber/Overgaard. For info email Mari Townsend  
[grasshopper0714@yahoo.com](mailto:grasshopper0714@yahoo.com)



**"Primitive (first) skills are our shared inheritance. It is the shared thread which links us to our prehistory and binds us together as human beings." Steve Watts**







**LEVEL I of SKILLS 1, 2 and 3  
INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AT EVERY SKILL  
MEETING DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER...**

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
1. Cutting Tool	Make a flake and Discoidal Blade	Make flakes from three different rocks and refine the tools	Demonstrate a use or project with the tool
2. Cordage	Make a uniform 3 foot length of cordage	Process three different fibers and make cordage	Demonstrate a use or project with the cordage
3. Friction Fire	Demonstrate one method of primitive fire starting	Forage for materials, construct hand drill or bow drill and make fire	Make a complete Fire Kit to use and display

**DON'T MISS THE JUNE 2025  
S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING  
SATURDAY, JUNE 21<sup>st</sup> 10 am - 2 pm**

**at the San Tan Historical Society Museum**  
20425 S. Old Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek, AZ

**(Remember to bring something for the Potluck Brunch!)**

**S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS and the S.A.L.T.  
DRUMMING CIRCLE will meet at 9 am**

**S.A.L.T. SKILL #4 TOOLS**

**Make a Digging Stick and Shell Scraper  
with Charlie Tadano**

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
4. Building Tools	Make a fire hardened Digging Stick, Shell Scraper, and Bone Needle	Make a Hoko Knife, Bone Awl and Pressure Flaker	Make a pecked and ground Stone Axe and a Pump Drill



Digging Sticks



Shell Scrapers

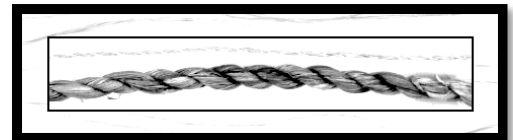
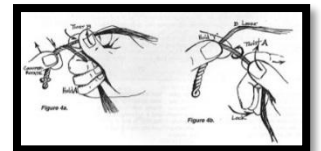
**SKILL #1 CUTTING TOOL: Level I**

*Make a flake and discoidal blade.*



**SKILL #2 CORDAGE: Level I**

*Make a uniform 3-foot length of cordage.*



**SKILL #3 FRICTION FIRE: Level I**

*Demonstrate one method of primitive fire starting.*



(Beads will be given out to new members when Level I of all three of the above Membership Requirement Skills are completed, and dues are paid.)

**Remember to bring your own primitive tools and materials to the Monthly Skill Meetings, if you have them. Materials for the Membership Requirement Skills are provided at each meeting for guests and new members.**

Also, you are responsible to sign in at meetings and events to be included in the newsletters, etc. and note on the sign-in sheet each level of each skill you complete to be awarded your beads. You need to make a Personal Bead to receive the leather thong for your Skill Beads. Thanks!

# MAY 2025 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, May 18, 2025

**Board Members in attendance:** Charlie & Tamara Tadano, Laura Robins, Jennifer Ahumada, Tom Wax, Bob Sizemore, Gary Alves, Bill Warner, and new Board Member Justin Sowden

**Members in attendance:** Luis & Noah Ahumada, Joyce Alves, Billy & Reena Nickel, Dalen & Mari Townsend, Ernie Verrue, Carlos Acuna, Mark Gustin, Stephanie & Victoria Searer

**Welcome New Members:** Michael Jantz and Sharon & Newman Matt

**Guests:** Rebecca Rigo, Faith MacPherson, and Ken & Sondra Cevalin

## S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS & DRUMMERS MEET BEFORE OUR SKILLS CLASS at 9:00 am

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
5. Flint Knapping	Demonstrate Core Reduction by Percussion	Use Percussion to produce Bi face Preform	Make primitive tools such as Southwestern Points



SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
25. Musical Instruments / Games	Take a class and make an instrument or game	Make and learn how to play 1 instrument and 1 game on your own	Demonstrate and display 3 instruments and 3 games



Charlie and Mari

## S.A.L.T. SKILL #24 DECORATION Making Pecten Shell Pendants with Charlie Tadano

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
24. Decoration – Pigments, etc.	Make a personal S.A.L.T. Bead	Research 6 different kinds of decoration such as pigments, etc.	Display 3 different items that were decorated by you

We will learn how a stone tipped hand drill works on shell jewelry, how to polish the shells, and if you want paint will be available to paint a design too!



Charlie



Some of the finished Pecten Shell Pendants





**S.A.L.T. DISPLAYS AND DEMOS FOR SVM  
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY**



Tom demoed Friction Fire



Michael, Justin and Bill



Jennifer, Noah and Luis



Bob



Charlie & Tamara



Thank you to everyone who brought delicious food!

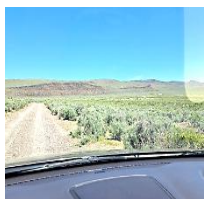


# S.A.L.T. MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT

White Rock Traditional Skills & Crafts Gathering  
Summer Lake, Oregon ~ May 4th – 10th, 2025  
By Ron Moses

[#wanderingwithmoses](https://www.instagram.com/wanderingwithmoses) [whiterockgathering.com](http://whiterockgathering.com)

I recently returned from the White Rock Traditional Skills & Crafts Gathering held near Summer Lake, Oregon on May 4-10. The event organization and site location are very impressive, particularly when you consider that this is just the third year for this gathering. I met the organizers, Richard and Alicia Waters a few years ago, at Winter Count, and was invited to come and teach once they got their new gathering up and running. Their company makes and sells yurts which they also rent as temporary camping/housing solutions at events like Winter Count. White Rock is held at 4,500 feet in a high desert meadow kept green by artesian springs. The property is also part of a working cattle and sheep ranch.



View from ranch road  
Heading into the camp



Food serving tent by the  
Field Kitchen



Campfire circle canopy  
doubled as eating area

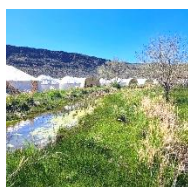
Teaching yurts and shade clouds were all provided by the event. I also opted to sleep in a spacious (and furnished) Bell Tent with a real bed (Respect for elders!). There was also a very large yurt, called the Moroccan Club, which was heated, if needed, and used for activities like music, storytelling, or just relaxing.



Main plaza my bell  
tent to the right



Moroccan Club Yurt



Artesian fed creek  
behind camp

I taught two different bone technology classes:

1. Making fishing hooks from deer second toe bones along with a complete hand line set. I learned this skill many years ago at my first ever Winter Count from a longtime friend, Thomas Robbins.
2. Making a bone bladed knife from a split deer rib bone. This class is based on instructions by Stephen Watts and featured in the SPT Bulletins.



Teaching Yurt I shared with  
Dino Labiste & Catie Lowder



Students used  
traditional tools



More modern tools  
were available

White Rock was a very enjoyable experience with some amazing students, a beautiful location and wonderful hosts. As a smaller event, several instructors I talked with agreed that the stress level was much lower, and we had more time to interact and even take some classes ourselves.

# S.A.L.T. MEMBERS PROJECT / INFO GALLERY

PAIUTE DEADFALL  
by Tom Wax



My daughter Jennifer teaches second grade school, and her students have been reading the book "The Other Side of the Mountain". She asked me and my son-in-law, Luis, to do demos of primitive skills for her students. She asked me if I could make an impromptu Paiute Deadfall besides making primitive fire. So, I made a Paiute Deadfall with just the things I found around the school.

FRICTION FIRE DISPLAY BOARD  
by Tom Wax



I have been working on a new primitive fire skills display board. I am tired of my display boards getting torn up during travel, the rain and wind. I am tired of replacing the display boards every year or two. So, I made a display box to protect my display materials to last for many years to come. I also added some new materials and room to add some more.

"Knowledge is not complete  
until it is passed on." Steve Watts



## 37TH RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho

**SEPTEMBER 14 – 20, 2025**

Rabbitstick Primitive Skills Gathering, held the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September in ID, is the premier Backtracks event. Rabbitstick is the oldest of all of the modern primitive skills events and has been the model for most of the events currently running worldwide. Each year we host nearly 150 instructional and support staff who provide a camp with hands-on classes that run 9am-5pm for 5 days for about 400 registered participants. This is an unparalleled opportunity to learn skills and get to know teachers that you can trust. Visit our new website -[rabbitstick.com](http://rabbitstick.com) – for complete event and registration details.

Backtracks has assembled one of the largest and most complete rosters of primitive skills teachers and practitioners available anywhere. Backtracks is your source for the best instructional staff you'll find at any event. **Join us next year!**

[www.rabbitstick.com](http://www.rabbitstick.com)

[Register On-Line Today](#)  
[Share a Ride Bulletin Board](#)  
[Meet Our Staff](#)

Rabbitstick | (208) 359-2400 | [backtracks905@gmail.com](mailto:backtracks905@gmail.com)  
[societyofprimitivetechnology@gmail.com](mailto:societyofprimitivetechnology@gmail.com)



Bulletin of Primitive Technology website at -[primitive.org](http://primitive.org). Order back issues, download a complete index of topics and titles, or view the entire first issue and newsletters for free. Don't miss out on this amazing collection of information. It's up and running and ready to take your orders now.

<https://www.facebook.com/Backtracks-Keeping-Traditions-Alive-213565755397099/?fref=Nf>



## FALL CAMP for ANCESTRAL SKILLS October 9 - 12, 2025

Instructors:

Please check in with Patrick if you would like to teach.

[Email Patrick HERE](#)

[Fall Camp Website](#)



## WINTER COUNT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

**FEBRUARY 15-21, 2026**

**REGISTRATION WILL OPEN NOVEMBER 1, 2025**

Winter Count, (started 1995), is part of a family of gatherings that strive to reconnect people with old ways of making fire, tanning hides, forming metal, weaving baskets, hunting, gathering and much more. We teach ancestral skills that were essential to the survival and well-being of all cultures, no matter what continent your ancestors came from. Through the understanding and mastery of these skills, people find that they can connect not only to a simpler way of living life but also to the roots of their heritage and to a pathway to interact more deeply with the natural world.

We provide a camp with some of the best instructors in their fields, teaching what they have learned through experience, experimentation and through source materials. Some of the instructors have spent many years perfecting their crafts. Some have managed archeological sites while others have lived deeply among the wild places, hunting, raising their own food and making their own clothing and tools from the most basic elements. We are a diverse group of people from many experiences, opinions, and family backgrounds, who come together to share what it is that makes us excited about life.

Winter Count is a drug, alcohol, and firearm free event.

Winter Count 505-570-9484

369 Montezuma Avenue, #326, Santa Fe, NM 87501

[WinterCountCamp@gmail.com](mailto:WinterCountCamp@gmail.com)

[www.WinterCountCamp.com](http://www.WinterCountCamp.com)

## PRESCOTT PRIMITIVE LIVING SKILLS Prescott, Arizona

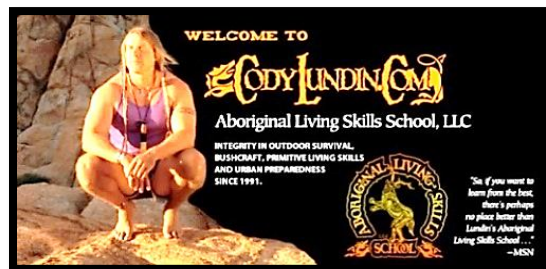
Check out Kiowa Sage on Facebook!

Hello friends! It's Kiowa Sage! I started a local meetup group to teach courses on primitive living skills, nature awareness and outdoor survival skills - all of which I've been training in for many years. All classes ranging from two hour workshops, day long classes and multiple day immersion courses. Skills and knowledge bases such as making fire with sticks, edible and medicinal plants, animal trapping and tracking, fiber arts and weaving, basic outdoor survival skills and how to do more with less in the outdoors. Right now I only have a couple classes listed until I acquire more traffic. Check out some of the listings that are available! [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

Watch for new listings of classes that are offered, and there will be more to come!

-Kiowa Sage

## THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE LESS YOU NEED



[www.codylundin.com](http://www.codylundin.com) [abodude@codylundin.com](mailto:abodude@codylundin.com)



## 《 》 BETWEEN THE RIVERS GATHERING 《 》

**May 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**



**Next year it's May 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



Email Mullein HERE with any further questions

Between the Rivers Gathering is a week-long educational workshop for learning skills that originated in the stone-age all the way up to modern homesteading. We are an annual event located in Washington State about an hour north of Spokane. We will have a multitude of instructors offering a broad-range of classes all week long. Included will be wilderness survival skills of all kind, basic and homespun living, preparedness and skills of a practical and archeological nature.

**We offer hands-on classes in ancestral living and survival, and we also focus on the skills of self-sufficiency and sustainable living to minimize our impact on this planet we all share. Come join our community and experience for yourself what an ancestral skills gathering is all about!**

**Ancestral Skills for Self-Sufficiency**  
Sponsored by Bridges to the Past 501(c)(3)  
Northeastern Washington State Ancestral Skills & Self-Sufficiency Gathering

Other [Skills Gatherings](#)  
[BTR T-Shirt](#)

Burning questions that can't wait? Contact us: [patrickf@bridgestothepast.org](mailto:patrickf@bridgestothepast.org)

[betweenthe Riversgathering.com](http://betweenthe Riversgathering.com)

Hi folks, I'll be renting furnished and unfurnished Yurts and Bell tents again this year. Included is a community Kitchen yurt or shade cloud to store your cooler and will also include cooking tables, stoves & pans etc.

See between the river's website for more info.

Prices for the whole week are \$300 unfurnished, \$400 furnished. Call or email [CampingYurts.com](http://CampingYurts.com)

### BTR LOGO HATS ARE AVAILABLE!

Kandis Larson is making Between the Rivers Gathering Logo Hats and making them available to you! Each hat has a leather patch branded with our BTR logo that we have all grown to love, no two are alike, and have a primitive touch to them.

[kandiscreated@gmail.com](mailto:kandiscreated@gmail.com)

509-994-0585 cell . @kandis created  
(Instagram)



**IMAGINE US IN  
THE STONE AGE**



## Earth Knack Courses, Classes, and Programs



Independent Living Skills ... More Important Now Than Ever! Hands-On, In-Person Instruction ... More Important Now Than Ever! Lighthearted Positive Teachings ... More Important Now Than Ever!  
Top Quality Instruction ... Our Specialty Since 1990!  
Robin Blankenship, Founder, Owner and Instructor of Earth Knack School Author: [How To Play In The](#)

[Woods](#) (Gibbs Smith, Publisher 2016)

[Earth Knack: Stone Age Skills for the 21st Century](#) (Peregrine Books - Gibbs Smith 1996)

P.O.#508 Crestone Colorado 81131

719 256 4909

[earthknackschool@gmail.com](mailto:earthknackschool@gmail.com)

<http://www.earthknack.com/>



7448 S. J-B Ranch Rd.  
Roosevelt, AZ 85545

[www.reevismountain.org](http://www.reevismountain.org)

Dear RMS family & friends,  
~ Live What You Love ~

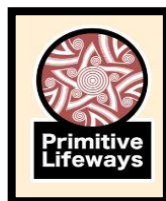
All classes held at Reeves Mountain School include hearty meals fresh from the homestead, class supplies, hot showers, and campsite. Camping is free, or stay in a yurpee (\$10 per night per person), single cabin (\$25 per night, sleeps 1), or double cabin (\$50 per night, sleeps 1-2+), availability permitting. We provide complimentary shuttle service from Roosevelt, AZ, or caravan in your own 4X4. Shuttle pickup is at 4 p.m., first day of class.

Please see our [website](#) to enroll and to get more information Sign up online!

[www.reevismountain.org/classes](http://www.reevismountain.org/classes)

Order all your favorite Reeves Mountain Remedies online!  
[www.reevismountain.org/country-store](http://www.reevismountain.org/country-store)

Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



### Visit the Primitive Lifeways Store!

The Primitive Lifeways store is up and running. This month we are featuring new merchandise including beautifully crafted prehistoric replica pottery and jewelry. We are still selling stickers for less than a cup of coffee at Starbucks. By purchasing our new merchandise, you are helping us educate the public on archaeological preservation and the

sharing of free information.

[Click Here](#) to visit our store.

Jeff Martin

[Jeff@primitivelifeways.com](mailto:Jeff@primitivelifeways.com)

## Volunteers Needed for City of Phoenix Park Steward Program

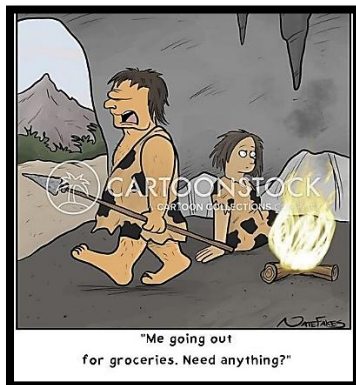
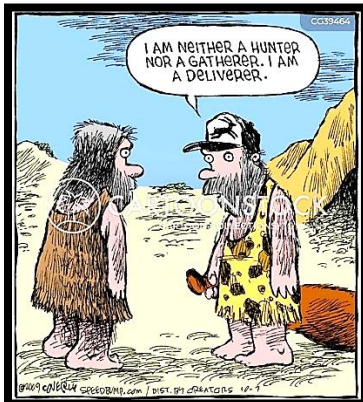


The City of Phoenix Park Steward Program is looking for volunteers to help maintain, clean, and preserve our trails. Help make a difference in your community!

Visit [volunteer.phoenix.gov](http://volunteer.phoenix.gov) to apply or reach out to 602-495-5458 for more information on how to get involved!



Summer Solstice June 21<sup>st</sup>



## ATTENTION

**S.A.L.T. Members and Associates!**

Please send in pictures and articles for this newsletter! Send in information on projects you are working on, information you have found on primitive skills, pictures from trips to archaeological sites, etc.

Send it to [saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)



STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY FROM PRIMITIVE WAYS

**ALSO, THINK ABOUT TEACHING ONE OF OUR SKILLS CLASSES!**

Contact Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910

## 2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES

**SINGLE \$20.00 or FAMILY \$40.00**

Please pay at a Skills Meeting or mail them to  
S.A.L.T. Treasurer,

**TAMARA TADANO**

12840 N. 45<sup>th</sup> Drive, Glendale, AZ 85304

Please make the check out to Tamara Tadano

**Or Zelle Tamara at 602-920-8228**

## S.A.L.T. MEMBERSHIP ITEMS

The Tan "Fishing Shirt" Style S.A.L.T. Membership Shirts are available by pre-order. Please contact Charlie Tadano to order your Shirt at 602-524-6910

**NEW BLACK S.A.L.T. T-SHIRTS,  
LONG SLEEVED SHIRTS, HOODIES**



**And NEW LEATHER S.A.L.T.  
PATCHES are available!**

(Special pricing for members) S.A.L.T. PATCHES \$5.00  
(Memberships receive one free)

## S.A.L.T. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: [www.saltskills.com](http://www.saltskills.com)

e-mail address: [saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)

For MEMBERSHIP information call Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910 or Bob Sizemore at 520-705-9780 or e-mail [saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)

For EVENTS and BEAD information contact Donna Moses at 602-384-1359 or [saltdonna1@gmail.com](mailto:saltdonna1@gmail.com)

For S.A.L.T. e-Newsletter or Website info contact Laura Robins, Editor at 623-533-0847 or e-mail [saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)